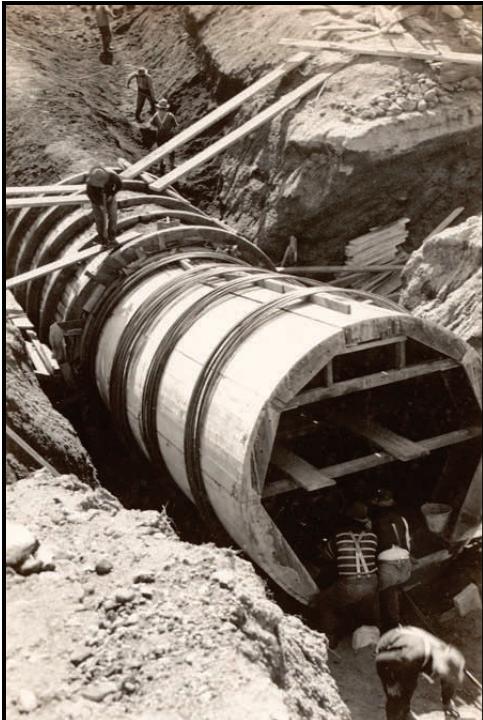


## Conservation Connection - Special Edition

### American Recovery & Reinvestment Act Funds



Whitney Siphon, Saugus Division, 1909  
J.B. Lippincott Collection

With recent enactment of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act), the Bureau of Reclamation will be accepting new applications for RECOVERY ACT Funding under the Challenge Grant Program for Water Marketing and Efficiency Grants. The objective of this Announcement is to invite irrigation and water districts, United States Territories, States in the West, and other local entities with water delivery authority to leverage their resources by cost sharing with Reclamation on projects that bank water, market water, conserve water, or generally make more efficient use of existing water supplies. These projects should preserve and create jobs, assist those impacted by the recession, provide investments in infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits, and complete a project that will provide a useful service. The minimum 50% federal cost-share is \$1,000,000 and the maximum federal award is \$5,000,000. Projects will be selected through a competitive process. Water Marketing and Efficiency Grants applications proposing water banking or marketing elements are given priority in the selection process. Applications under this activity for Recovery Act funding are different from applications previously submitted for Water Marketing and Efficiency Grants on January 14, 2009. To be considered previous applicants must reapply. Projects using Recovery Act Funding will be subject to additional reporting requirements, Davis Bacon Wage Rate Determinations, and the Buy American Act.

Proposals must be submitted by **May 22, 2009**. A copy of the full announcement for the Funding Opportunity Application (#09SF811499) is available at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).



#### On the Radar Screen:

The following funding opportunities will be posted in the near future on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) and our WaterShare website at [www.usbr.gov/mp/watershare](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/watershare):

- **CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grants** - Objectives include improving flows in the Bay-Delta, reducing irrecoverable water losses, attaining water quality benefits or attaining ecosystem benefits.
- **Water Conservation Program Technology Transfer Grants** - Purpose includes advancement of Best Management Practices, promote water conservation technology, and enhance delivery system modernization.

#### Drought Assistance for Farmers

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced the availability of \$2 million through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (**EQIP**) California Drought Response Initiative. NRCS is accepting applications until **May 8, 2009** for practices designed to protect soil and air quality in areas of fallowed fields, keep orchard trees alive, and protect natural resources on ranch and pasture land. Due to the extraordinary conditions, NRCS will pay a higher-than-normal 75 percent cost share rate. For more information on the (**EQIP**) California Drought Response Initiative visit [www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/features/cadrought.html](http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/features/cadrought.html) or by contact your local NRCS office.



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***Conservation  
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